

Coast guard cutter is perfect host for Newport Bermuda race committee

BY RICHARD W DIONNE JR
editorial@newportthisweek.net

In the midst of the scrum of race boats during the start of the Newport Bermuda Race anchored the *United States Coast Guard Cutter Juniper*, of Newport, hosting Royal Bermuda Yacht Club and Cruising Club of America members — and race officials from the Newport Yacht Club while they blasted rifle rounds to signal the start of each of the 16 classes for the five divisions of races. The 225-foot cutter used primarily for buoy tending lists ice breaking, oil skimming, search and rescue, migrant

interdiction, fisheries enforcement and homeland security among its many duties, according to Capt. Rick Webster. The longtime Coastie has seen his share on a boat.

"We had 82 Cuban migrants on our deck," the captain said of the *Juniper's* onetime migrant duty off Key West, Fla. "We had to keep them for a week before sending them back, so we set up a tent on the buoy deck."

The *Juniper* has performed many missions, including recovery for TWA flight 800 — "We recovered most of the debris," said Captain Webster — and the

Egypt Air 990 catastrophes and antiterrorist/force protection operations in New York after 9/11 took place. The cutter also has gone to war.

"We were there for the initial invasion, on the western river off Khairabad Allah, Iraq, in 2003, before Bush declared victory. It was very hot. We worked buoy detail replacing 36 buoys up to the Iraqi port. We replaced the old ones with new buoys we found in a warehouse. This allowed the humanitarian ships to enter the port with a safe navigation system," the captain said.



Coasties Cristina Nelson (left) and Emily Kehrt of the *Juniper* raise the Coast Guard Academy sailing team's burgee in honor of the crew members sailing in the event aboard *Glory*. Kehrt raced in the event two years ago.

Newport *this week*

86 Broadway, Newport, R.I. 02840
401-847-7766 • 401-846-4974 (fax)

A publication of East Bay Newspapers,
1 Bradford St., Bristol, R.I. 02809
Available online at: eastbayri.com

© 2008 East Bay Newspapers

How to reach us

News deadline 9 a.m. Monday
For news contact:

Richard W. Dionne Jr, Editor
847-7766, ext. 107
editorial@eastbaynewspapers.com

Tom Shevlin, Reporter
847-7766, ext. 106
news@newportthisweek.net

Matthew Hayes, Publisher
253-6000, ext. 140
mhayes@eastbaynewspapers.com

Advertising deadline 5 p.m. Monday
For advertising information contact:

Kirby Varacalli, Sales Specialist
847-7766, ext. 103
kirby@newportthisweek.net
Susan Duca, Sales Specialist
847-7766, ext. 105
sduca@newportthisweek.net

For subscription/newsstand information contact:

Circulation Department
253-6000, ext. 131
subscriptions@eastbaynewspapers.com

Calendar deadline
5 p.m. Monday

Contributors

Ross Sinclair Cann
Shane Donaldson
Patricia Lacouture
Valerie Malkin
Virginia Treherne-Thomas
Tyler Will

Index

Arts and Entertainment ..	12
Calendar	16
Gulls Briefs	15
Graduates	10
Obituaries	22
Opinion	6
Police Report	7